

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4033

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS AMMAN 1687

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SECSTATE MIDEAST VISIT-MEDIA REACTION MAR 9

USIA FOR IOP/M: INA, IBS, IPS

BEIRUT FOR VOA

1. SUMMARY: PRESS TODAY HEADLINED BUT COMMENTED LITTLE ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO EGYPT. STRESS WAS ON HIS DETERMINATION TO REMAIN UNTIL AGREEMENT IS REACHED. AD DUSTOOUR: "KISSINGER TO REMAIN IN AREA - MIGHT CELEBRATE PASSOVER IN ISRAEL". CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM WAS ALSO EXPRESSED: AR RAI: "KISSINGER CONVINCED OF ACHIEVEMENT OF PROGRESS". "SADAT SAYS PEACE APPEARS TO BE POSSIBLE". IN ADDITION, ASAD'S ANNIVERSARY SPEECH WIDELY COVERED. "AS SABAH: PALESTINIANS WELCOME ASAD SPEECH - ISRAEL WORRIED". AL-URDON QUOTES ASAD: "WE WILL FOIL ANY EFFORT WHICH AIMS AT SPLITTING ARAB SOLIDARITY". END SUMMARY.

2. AD DUSTOUR REPORTS ON ASAD PROPOSAL FOR JOINING MILITARY-POLITICAL LEADERSHIP BETWEEN
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SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS AND HIS CALL FOR

ARAB SOLIDARITY: "ARAB STRUGGLE IS ONE AND
CANNOT BE DIVIDED". ASAD FURTHER STATES
THAT IF OCCUPATION CONTINUES, WAR IS ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

3. AS-SABAH EDITOR AND OWNER HIJAZI OUTLINES
WHAT HE CLAIMS IS SECRETARY'S NEGOTIATING SCENARIO
AS REVEALED BY "ONE OF KISSINGER'S GROUP".
LATTER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EGYPTIAN
AND ISRAELI EXTREME POSITIONS PROVIDE SECRETARY A CHANCE TO
PENETRATE BETWEEN THEM TO POSSIBLY REACH A SUITABLE SOLUTION".
EGYPT WANTS WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION, WHILE
ISRAEL, BEFORE WITHDRAWAL, WANTS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS
OR INDIRECT THROU US KISSINGER APPEARS
CONFIDENT THAT COMPRISE CAN COME OUT OF
THIS, "BUT PERSONS CLOSE TO KISSINGER CONFIRM THAT...(ANY)
SEPERATION WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AUTUMN, BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S
INSISTANCE ON TESTING EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN INTENTIONS...
KISSINGER'S OPTIMISM THIS TIME IS BASED ON THE
FACT THAT THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
IN EGYPT AND THE HUGH ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL
WILL CAUSE THE EGYPTIANS TO YEILD..."EDITOR
CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PLAN WILL FAIL,
ZBECAUSE EGYPT WILL NEVER ACEPT BEING PUT TO
TO THE TEST BY ISRAEL".
PICKERING

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